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CLASSIFICATION SECRET

COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Military Information from Letzling Heath

25X1

EVALUATION [REDACTED] 25X1 PLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED] 25X1

25X1

DATE OF CONTENT [REDACTED]

DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED] DATE PREPARED 25 February 1954

REFERENCES 25X1

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS [REDACTED]

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1. On 11 February 1954, the wood camp southeast of Jaevenitz, Letzling Heath, was vacant. Individual sentries and no vehicular traffic were observed. In the morning,

25X1 [REDACTED] vehicles, tanks and camouflaged guns southeast of the wood camp, near the clearing at Barriere Zienau and near the ammunition depot south of Jaevenitz. Imprints of tank tracks led from the Jaevenitz railroad station to the training area.

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2. On 11 February, the wood camp north of Born was vacant, with the entrance of the camp being closed and no sentries being seen.

3. On 11 February, local residents stated that wood camps Nos 3 and 11 near Born were lightly occupied. All was quiet in the quartering areas. Vehicular traffic was light.

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[REDACTED] Double sentries were seen at the Born fuel depot.

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4. On 11 February, wood camp II, south of Huetten, also referred to as Camp Planken, was occupied by about 250 to 300 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. There was neither training nor vehicular traffic. The two four-mast radio stations were seen north of the camp as previously.

5. On 11 February, the barracks installation at the western exit of Hillersleben was occupied to capacity by about 800 to 1,000 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including some with tank insignia. Troops observed in the barracks area received training or maintained motor vehicles. Four T-34/85 tanks were seen in front of sheds in the west section of the barracks area and about 16 trucks were observed in 2 open sheds.

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6. On 11 February, the barracks installation at the northeastern exit of Hillersleben was occupied by about 800 to 1,000 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including some with artillery insignia. No training other than maintenance work on vehicles was observed. Four guns were stored in the north section of the barracks area.

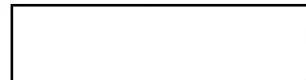
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7. In early February, the barracks installation at the northeastern exit of Hillersleben was occupied to capacity by troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery and motor transport insignia. The commanding officer of the unit drove jeep [redacted] 25X1
 [redacted] 57-mm AT guns in the barracks area.

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8. In early February, the barracks installation at the western exit of Hillersleben was occupied to capacity. An officer [redacted] 25X1 stated that, about mid-January, Lieutenant Colonel Stepanov (phonetical spelling) (fmu) had left for Leningrad, USSR, retiring after 26 years of service, and that he had been succeeded by Colonel Potapov (phonetical spelling) (fmu). On 5 February, 4 x 37-mm AA guns were firing at the firing range near Planken. Six JS-3 tanks were seen nearby. On 9 February, [redacted] 12 JS-3 tanks [redacted] 25X1 and T-34 tank [redacted] 25X1 in the area of [redacted] Armored scout cars, armored personnel carriers, AA guns and AT guns were also observed with the unit. In late December, an undetermined number of trucks occupied by troops wearing black-bordered black epaulets with engineer insignia and carrying engineer and bridge-building equipment were seen leaving the installation. The unit built a bridge across the Ohre River, about 100 meters west of the Neuenhofe-Wedringen road. After 2 days, the bridge was dismantled, except for driven piles. On 4 February, 6 JS-3 tanks and T-34 tank [redacted] left the installation and practiced firing at dummy tanks. On 11 February, about 30 to 40 troops carrying full field pack left the installation toward Vahldorf.

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9. In the afternoon on 28 January, a total of 9 JS-3 tanks, 5 T-34/85 tanks and 8 trucks occupied by troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets and carrying full field pack passed individually through Wedringen, coming from the direction of Hillersleben and proceeding toward Althaldensleben. All vehicles had covered numbers. No troops were observed in Hillersleben and vicinity after 28 January. A Soviet officer stated that, on 28 January, troops were set on the highest stage of alert. Officers were permitted to leave the installation for 5 km round, while NCOs and EM were restricted to quarters.

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1. [redacted] Comment. [redacted] 25X1
 It is possible that units of the 207th Mts Rifle Div conducted exercises in the Barriere Zienau area.

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2. [redacted] Comment. The camps mentioned are still vacant. Wood camp II, south of Huettten, is occupied by the firing range komendatura. [redacted] 25X1
 [redacted] 25X1
3. [redacted] Comment. Prior to mid-February, the two installations were occupied as previously by units of the 19th Gds Mts Div. [redacted] 25X1
 The barracks installation at the northeastern exit of Hillersleben has been carried/occupied by the 64th Gds Mts Regt and the unidentified tank training battalion. The 153d Gds Hv Tank SP Regt also believed stationed in this installation apparently is quartered in the barracks installation at the western exit of Hillersleben, according to the present information. [redacted] 25X1
 which, prior to 1950, was observed in Wuensdorf and, subsequently, in the Hillersleben area, is rather safely believed to belong to this regiment which, thus, can be confirmed in Hillersleben until 9 February. Colonel Potapov (fmu) who is mentioned for the first time, is believed to be commanding officer of the regiment. Lieutenant Colonel Stepanov (fmu) is known as belonging to the regiment. The unidentified Gds engineer battalion can also be confirmed in the installation until late December 1953. The 2503d Gds AAA Regt (US) which, [redacted] 25X1
 [redacted] is also carried in the installation mentioned, is vaguely indicated by the present information. [redacted]